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## UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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The S. T. Zimmerman house, which is virtually unaltered in exterior appearance, is a stellar example of a Kansas residence executed in Second Empire Renaissance architecture. When built, it presented an imposing sight on the banks of the Kansas river. Since then the river has moved to the east and is blocked from view by the woods between the house and the river. The house is located in a quiet residential neighborhood a few blocks north of the Old West Lawrence Historic District, a National Register listing.

The two-story structure faces west and the house and grounds are enclosed by a black-painted wrought iron fence.

The first story has an exterior of white-painted red brick while the second story is situated behind a mansard roof covered with gray slate siding. Among the striking features of the house are the flat-roofed first floor porches, the bay window on the south side and the square tower at the southwest corner. The tower has a bellcast mansard roof. Evenly spaced frame brackets support the roof overhang on both the main structure and the tower.

Wrought iron on the roof, tower and porches and carved wood roping add other decorative touches to the house. A major portion of the ironwork had disappeared, probably disposed of for scrap during World War II, but the missing pieces were recently replaced with matching ironwork from another structure of the same vintage. The carved wood roping, of which three sizes were used, is placed around all windows and doors, and under eaves and roof lines.

First floor windows on the portion of the house easily visible to the public are tall arched openings. The living room windows on the west front are eight feet tall. Second floor windows on the west and south sides are deep-welled arched openings grouped in three's, but as shown by the photographs none of the four groupings are alike. The three-piece stone arched window lintels, the sills and roping are painted brown, in contrast to the white exterior and gray roof.

The double brick walls, both exterior and interior, have helped to insure the structural soundness of the house. The original plaster remains in near-perfect condition.

The interior does not so closely resemble the original as does the exterior, but it has retained most of the original character. The open spiral walnut staircase in the tower remains intact as does the maple flooring, although the latter is carpeted in some areas. The carved walnut and pine woodwork is in place although parts have been painted instead of stained over the years. The first floor's original 12 foot ceilings were lowered at one time, but the present owners are in the process of raising them in some rooms. The original divisions of five rooms on each floor remain, as do the first floor fireplaces. The dining room has a cast bronze fireplace with a slate mantle, copper Wateau figures and a hearth of design-bearing ceramic tile. The living room has a bird's-eye maple fireplace.

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S. T. Zimmerman, operator of a Lawrence mill, built his house on the banks of the Kansas river around 1870. He was listed at that address in the 1871 Lawrence city directory which further identified him as a miller. An 1873 Douglas county atlas showed his occupancy of the house and a directory of Lawrence businessmen in the same atlas listed him as a railroad contractor. Apparently he continued to reside at the house until the early 1880's. On October 30, 1882, the Missouri Valley Life Insurance Company assumed the title and the same day sold the property to William Mansfield. Since then the house has had 16 different owners. It was used for a time as an apartment house but is today once again a one-family dwelling.

The Zimmerman house was the subject for a collection of 1870's etchings and 1880's drawings which are now owned by the University of Kansas Museum of Art. These works provide visual proof of the virtually unaltered exterior of the house.

This house may well be the only surviving example in Lawrence of this residential style. Its unique second floor window placements enhance its architectural interest. Not too much is known of the man whose name is given to the house, but the house stands on its own merits as an outstanding example of Second Empire Renaissance residential architecture.

DLAM	OR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Δ÷	ostract of Title  Llas of Douglas County, Kansas (New York, F. W. Beers and Co., 1873).  Rewrence City Directories, 1871, 1875-1876, 1879, 1883, assorted
	publishers.  ineteenth Century Houses in Lawrence, Kansas (Lawrence, University of Kansas Museum of Art, 1968).

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